

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP / MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008

The monthly workshop / meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 11, 2008, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Mary Cerullo, Executive Director of Literacy K-12, Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2008-06: A-K: – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Secondary Library/Media Specialist as listed below:

1. Iren Griffin Library/Media Specialist – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the
2007-08 school year only, pending
receipt of certification and satisfactory
completion of pre-employment
requirements

Reason: To fill a leave of absence vacancy
(LOA – B. Chew)

Funding: Operational Budget (10th step/M+30)

This recommendation was tabled at the last meeting.

MOTION: For the purpose of discussion, Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve and Mr. Silva seconded. The library ran sufficiently well from September to January without filling this position, so the Committee does not feel the need to make this appointment, especially in light of the large number of lay-offs; Dr. Mara supports this decision. The

motion to approve failed by a vote of 0 to 9 with all members voting no.

B. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Justine Barnabo Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

2. Kevin Calisto Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

3. Megan Kamide Child Care Provider (Part Time)

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the
2007-08 school year, pending
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

4. Marie Mascena Child Care Provider (Part Time)

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the
2007-08 school year, pending
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

C. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2007-08 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

COACHES

Sport Position Coach

1. Baseball (Boys) Asst. Coach Manuel Reis

2. Baseball (Boys) Asst. Coach Jon J. Sawyer *

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

3. Track (Outdoor) Coach Brian Beausoleil

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

D. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Susan J. Allan Elementary**
- 2. Samuel B. Grossberg Elementary**
- 3. Christine Valliere Elementary**

E. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following application for a classified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

1. Colleen A. DiCostanzo

F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for a Teacher Assistant as follows:

1. Debrah Bifulco Teacher Assistant – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: Feb. 1, 2008, through the end of
the 2007-08 school year

Reason: Leave in accordance with Article 20
of the Master Agreement

G. TERMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote of May 29, 2007 of the following listed auxiliary school personnel and appoint the listed personnel to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

- 1. Denise Salamon Teacher Assistant (Part Time to Full Time)**
- 2. Robin Shaw Teacher Assistant (Part Time to Full Time)**

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve sections B – G. Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

H. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: Based on the uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2008-09 school year, and program reductions, consolidation of classes, re-alignment of staff and elimination of positions to more efficiently and effectively use the school system's assets, the Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination/ non-renewal of the following listed personnel effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year:

Fifty-one (51) positions

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

I. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: The Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination/non-renewal, effective the end of current assignment and/or the last day of the 2007-08 school year, whichever occurs first, of the following listed teachers due to the return of teachers from leaves of absence and/or the non-renewal of

the limited contracts:

Four (4) positions

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded.
The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

J. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: The Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination/non-renewal, effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year, of the following listed teachers due to their lack of permanent certification in the required area and/or the non-renewal of the limited contracts:

Six (6) positions

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

K. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: Based on the Superintendent's belief that there exists more qualified teachers available for their positions, the Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination/non-renewal of the following listed non-tenured

personnel effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year:

Five (5) positions

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

All legal requirements have been satisfied. The School Committee authorizes Mr. Estrella to sign the letters to these individuals which will be mailed tomorrow.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-07: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/ Facilities Subcommittee, award the bid for the renovation of the new Technology space at Kickemuit Middle School.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to amend: add " contingent on review by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee" (which will take place tomorrow night). Mrs. Campbell seconded.

It is confirmed that the low bidder, Tower Construction, is the lowest qualified bidder and all seven bidders had provided performance bonds; Mr. Torrado, upon scrutiny of Tower, is satisfied. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Mr. Silva said he will vote against awarding any bid of \$200,000 with a savings offset of 4 to 5 years because this is not fiscally prudent at this time. Mr. Saviano asked Mrs. Correia if there is money to do this project. Mrs. Correia responded that the capital projects fund spending is at the discretion of the School Committee and the five year plan will be reviewed on February 12. Mrs. McBride commented that it costs approximately \$75,000 per year to run the Main Street School building. Later in the meeting Mr. Silva said he felt the public should know it does not cost \$75,000 to keep Main Street open.

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve the recommendation as amended: "That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/ Facilities Subcommittee, award the bid for the renovation of the new Technology space at Kickemuit Middle School, to Tower Construction for \$204,300 plus \$7,500 alternate, contingent on review by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee after a meeting with the architect." Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 1 with Mr. Silva voting no.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-08: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/ Facilities Subcommittee, award the bid for the Mt. Hope track and field upgrades.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve. Mrs. Campbell seconded.

- **Mr. Estrella commented that this project has been discussed for a long time; for the record, he had asked Mr. O'Dell to include input from the Boosters Club, Beth Penkala and Mr. Simmons for the final specifications.**
- **Mrs. McBride will be voting no because she feels this is money we do not have to spend right now, we should be doing only the track repair, and we need to look at a plan for the entire athletic complex rather than one little piece at a time.**
- **Mrs. Campbell said this will essentially be adding the finishing touches to allow us to host track events which can be used as a revenue source.**
- **Mrs. McBride said we would then have to equip the students and hire coaches for track and field sports and after lay-offs, she does not think we should be adding any programs.**
- **Mr. Estrella said there are indoor and outdoor track and field teams in place who compete, but never on home turf; the money is in capital projects, the bid was well-circulated and MF had worked on the track; he appreciates Mrs. McBride's fiscal concerns. Mr. Estrella also mentioned Mt. Hope High School student Ariel Teixeira's recent accomplishment of scoring 1000 career points in girls basketball.**
- **Mrs. Lynch supports this project more than the technology move because this one directly affects the students; she feels the entire athletic complex project is so big it would require a bond and that would be years in the future.**
- **Mr. Saviano is being more cautious on this recommendation because a few weeks from now, when Administration discusses**

curriculum changes, one of the things they may be asking for is I-Mac labs and this money could be used toward one of those, a true educational need; therefore he will vote no.

- Mr. Dugan agrees with Mrs. Lynch that it could be years before the whole project is completed; he is in favor of this band aid because it will produce revenues.

- Mr. O'Dell also agrees that this band aid will allow us to hold track meets and until we can, the \$200,000 already spent on the track is a waste.

- Mr. Estrella said it will also reduce bussing costs to send students to track meets.

- Mr. Silva said this \$25,000 is 20% of the expense to renovate the new technology space; track and field does fairly well; this project has been on the list of things to do.

On a show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 6 to 3 with Mr. Brule, Mrs. McBride and Mr. Saviano voting no.

Attorney Henneous left the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Boosters Club Update

Mr. Chris Ferreira, Boosters Club President, reported that the Club started in October 2006 as part of NEASC. They have a 501 C3 so are tax deductible; any equipment purchased becomes property of the District; some things the Club has purchased are video equipment and warm-ups for the swim team, also awards such as rings and

sweatshirts for championship teams. The Club also paid for the installation of a water line to the concession stand, but a sewer line is also needed. They are developing a grid iron club with football coaches Ron Silva and Mark Rhynard and would like to purchase new goals posts and fix the side lines. Last year a Kayleigh Raposa Scholarship Fund was established which awards two \$750 scholarships. Booster Club memberships can be purchased for \$300 (name on sponsor board and in all program books); \$150 (name in all program books); \$30 for adults; \$20 for senior citizens and \$15 for students. Dr. Mara and Beth Penkala have been great supporters. Mr. Estrella commented that the Committee is amazed, overwhelmed and grateful to Mr. Ferreira and the Club; he asked the School Committee to consider a \$300 sponsorship. Dr. Mara thanked Mr. Ferreira for sticking it out when the going was tough.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-09: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy/ Community Affairs Subcommittee, approved the revised School Committee Policy HE School Committee Negotiating Agents (First Reading)

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded.

The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to suspend this policy until the signing of the new BWEA contract currently under negotiation. Mrs. McBride seconded. This is because the policy still designates three members

and we have four. The motion to suspend passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-10: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy/ Community Affairs Subcommittee, approved the revised School Committee Policy EC Buildings and Grounds Management (First Reading)

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The only changes were "schoolhouses" to "facilities" and correct notation of Mrs. Correia's title. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-11: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy/ Community Affairs Subcommittee, approved the revised School Committee Policy ECB Buildings and Grounds Maintenance (First Reading)

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The changes are the same as for Policy EC. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVE

Update on Security Systems at All Schools

The radio system between Kickemuit and the Warren Police

Department is excellent; Dr. Mara is working with Bristol Police Chief Serpa for something similar in Bristol. Dr. Mara also reports we are developing a card reading system in all schools. When there is inclement weather, Dr. Mara utilizes the Connect-ED system, the second district in RI to use this system; it is working very well; positive feedback has been received from parents. Dr. Mara receives reports back from the system on incorrect phone numbers; our rate is approximately 93% for accurate numbers. Parents should be sure to inform schools when their contact information changes. Mrs. Campbell mentioned that Turn to 10.com is a good notification system as well.

The Committee requested a regular report from the Technology Director.

The defibrillator for Hugh Cole has been ordered.

The March Workshop will be held at Kickemuit Middle School.

Mr. Estrella asked each School Committee member to review the emergency plan in their assigned building. A brief wait for visitors at the front door of a school is because we are taking safety and security seriously.

Report on Rockwell Bus Circle

Dr. Mara said the parent pick up and the bus pick up circles were

switched; this is working much better; almost one-hundred parents pick up their children at Rockwell each day; the 3:30 time to arrive is much better than 3:00. Mr. Dugan confirmed it is indeed working well; the problem is the school is situated in a difficult place to get into and out of; he commends Dr. Annotti for her dedication to student safety. Mrs. Lynch urged parents to allow the aids to walk their children from the sidewalk into the school, they are very capable.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell said the next Subcommittee meeting is Tuesday, February 12, at 6:00 PM at Oliver.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva had nothing new to report. The negotiation session on February 21 with BWEA is not going to take place but the team may meet anyway.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride reported they will be starting work on handbooks. Mr. Saviano asked to be included in the discussion of the Mt. Hope handbook.

TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE & ELECTRONIC SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. Mara reported the Committee is working on goals. The Electronic School Board vendor could not arrange a preview of the operation of the system with the Providence School Board because our meeting schedules conflict. Mr. Estrella feels this system enhances the engagement of the community and asked the Committee to take a good look at it. Dr. Mara and Mrs. Campbell will pursue this further.

At the request of Mr. Saviano, Dr. Mara will ask Mr. Morris to arrange for the recording of minutes to the Technology Task Force meetings.

Joint Finance

Mr. Estrella announced that the Joint Finance meetings are March 4, at the Warren Town Hall, and March 27, at the Bristol Town Hall, both at 7:00 PM. He encouraged the entire School Committee and anyone from the public to attend.

Mt. Hope Guidance

Mr. Estrella said the March Workshop will be held at Kickemuit Middle School; Mt. Hope Guidance will be the main topic, coordinated by Mrs. Thies. Mrs. Thies suggested an informal meeting for parents with high school administration as an appropriate next step before moving discussion to the Workshop. The Committee should forward

specific items of concern to Mrs. Thies.

Congratulations

Dr. Mara congratulated Mr. Michael Carbone, Principal of Kickemuit Middle School, who was recently chosen the RI Middle School Principal of the Year.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:21 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to adjourn at 8:21 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

/c